

## Country Statement of Nepal



**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

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Check against delivery

Country Statement to be delivered by H.E. Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal,  
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Leader of the Nepalese Delegation  
Bangkok, Thailand  
April 30, 2013

Mr. Chairman

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates

1. On behalf of my delegation and on my own, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you Mr. Chairman, on your election to the Chair of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the ESCAP. I am confident that under your able leadership, we would be able to bring the Session to a successful conclusion.
2. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, the Executive Secretary for her able and dynamic leadership.

*Mr. Chairman,*

3. Nepal is one of the 20 most disaster-prone countries in the world. Major disasters in Nepal include floods, earthquake, droughts, landslides, epidemics, glacial lake out-burst floods, fire and other ecological hazards.
4. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat for undertaking the theme study on *building resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises* as Nepal is seeking comprehensive and systematic approach for building resilience of critical sectors.

5. Moreover, Nepal as one of the members of LDCs and LLDCs is facing the problems of poverty, income disparity, high unemployment and underemployment, and social and spatial exclusion. The volatility and uncertainty of the global economy, fuel crisis, food crisis and the climate change has further aggravated the problems.
6. Nepal is still in the political transition. However, major aspects of peace process have been accomplished. Integration of the Maoist combatants into the Nepal Army has already been completed. Their arms and weapons have been handed over to the Government of Nepal. We believe that Nepal would be an exemplary in this regard.

*Mr. Chairman,*

7. Nepal is on track on meeting most of the MDGs by 2015. The number of people living below the national poverty line has been reduced from 31 percent (2004) to 23.8 percent (2012). Significant progress has been made in the social sectors mainly in gender equality, reducing infant, child and maternal mortality rates.
8. In spite of good achievements in MDGs, there is still a visible disparity in the rural and urban poverty levels. Poverty is highly unequal among social and ethnic groups and the geographic regions. The people of the geographically remote areas are still in a vulnerable position in terms of accessibility of basic facilities. Achieving targeted results in the employment, hunger, and women participation in tertiary education, social inclusion and environmental sustainability are more challenging.



9. The inflation rate has marked double digit, economic growth rate has slowed down to 3.6 percent, trade deficit has escalated, and the income disparity and unemployment rate has also gone up. This situation has placed the economy into highly vulnerable to internal as well as external shocks. Likewise, subsistence agriculture, political transition, weak governance, energy problem, climate change and disaster risk have put it in a very difficult situation.
10. Against this backdrop, Nepal has drafted the 13<sup>th</sup> Development Plan (2013-16). It aims at achieving inclusive and sustainable development through broad based growth, reducing poverty, generating productive employment, and reducing the impact of climate change.
11. The long term vision of the Development Plan of Nepal is *to graduate the country from the status of LDCs* as early as possible. Towards this end, strategies have been designed focusing on social & infrastructure development like transport networks, hydropower & other renewable energy.
12. Nepal has been implementing universal and non-contributory pro-poor social protection programs including the pension schemes to senior citizens, single women, Dalits, ethnic minorities, & the people living in remote areas.

*Mr. Chairman,*

13. The *Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA)* and *Almaty Program of Action (APoA)* along with the *Vientiane Consensus 2013* have set a clear

vision and priorities in addressing the common problems faced by LDCs and LLDCs. These arrangements have indeed increased hopes to bring about qualitative changes in the lives of the vulnerable people of these countries.

14. Moreover, as we are aware that the delegations of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS of this region, participated in a meeting on the *United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS* held in Bangkok on 24 April 2013 and the Meeting has adopted "Bangkok Declaration". Nepal has placed a Resolution entitled "*Achieving the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS on the Development Agenda Beyond 2015*". My delegation seeks your valuable support for its endorsement.
15. My delegation fully supports the adoption of the *Inter-governmental Agreement on Dry-ports* and invites member states to consider for signing the Agreement for its early implementation so that LLDCs could be greatly benefited.

*Mr. Chairman,*

16. Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the Executive Secretary and her dedicated team at the ESCAP Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this Session.
17. I would also like to thank Royal Thai Government for the generous hospitality extended to my delegation.

I thank you for your kind attention!